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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

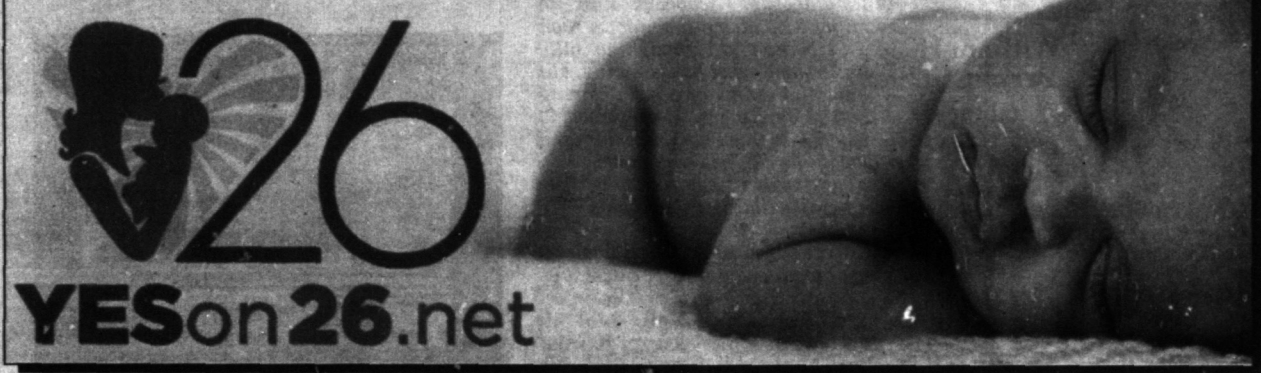
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SINCE 1877  
17, 2011  
VOL. 135  
No. 45

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Initiative 26 defeated by voters

**VOTE for LIFE** Give me a chance...



## Christian Action Commission: 'We mourn with heaven tonight over ... God's unborn babies.'

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

Initiative 26, also known as the Personhood Amendment and unanimously endorsed by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting in Jackson two weeks ago, went down to defeat in state general election balloting on Nov. 8.

The initiative, which asked voters the question, "Should the term 'person' be defined to include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning, or the equivalent thereof?" lost by a margin of 58% against and 42% in favor.

"We mourn with heaven tonight over the loss of Initiative 26, which would have provided the hope of life for thousands of God's unborn babies in Mississippi," said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. "Instead the unborn in Mississippi will continue to be led down a path of destruction to horrible deaths both inside their mothers and in laboratories.

"How much longer will God stand for this unprecedented atrocity in Mississippi and the United States? Time will tell, but in the meantime we will be marshaling our forces under God's direction and deciding what's next for this movement."

Backers of the campaign to turn back Initiative 26, primarily out-of-state Planned Parenthood affiliates and the American Civil Liberties Union

(ACLU), were elated with the defeat of the proposed amendment. "I think Mississippians made a serious and deliberate choice about this bad, dangerous amendment," said Stan Flint, a Jackson lobbyist hired to organize the

anti-26 forces under Mississippians for Healthy Families, a front group registered by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, in an interview with Jackson television station WLBT.

Mississippi Baptists stood alone among the major Christian denominations in Mississippi in supporting Initiative 26. Mississippi Episcopal Bishop Duncan Gray III fretted about "decades of legal challenges" he foresaw if Initiative 26 passed, while Mississippi's United Methodist Bishop Hope Morgan Ward publicly opposed it.

Bishop Joseph Latino of the Catholic Diocese of Jackson also said he would not support it, and Rabbi Valerie Cohen of Jackson argued against the measure.

Some Mississippi Baptists also fought against the initiative. James Nichols, senior pastor of First Church, Greenville, issued a lengthy letter opposing the initiative and urged readers to distribute his document to others. "I'm a Christian and I love Jesus ...

I'm pro-life and against abortion ... and I love Mississippi ... but I'll be voting NO on Initiative 26 on Tuesday, November 8th," Nichols wrote.

Jonathan Will, an assistant professor at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College

School of Law in Jackson, co-wrote a New York Times editorial in which he criticized supporters of Initiative 26 and said, "Mississippi voters, whatever their views on abortion, deserve an amendment that is clear on its face. This is not such an amendment."

Will also organized a pre-election "symposium" at the law school in downtown Jackson that was criticized because panelists were heavily weighted toward the Initiative 26 opposition.

Flint told WLBT that he believed the faith leaders who lined up against the amendment helped turn the tide against the proposal.

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour also denounced Initiative 26 on national television, then said he voted for it, then said he still had problems with it. Planned Parenthood and the ACLU took advantage of Barbour's waffling, using the Mississippians for Healthy Families

### Voted down

58% of Mississippi voters cast their ballots against Initiative 26.

### What now?

Read *Practical Principles* by Jimmy Porter on page five.

See "Initiative 26" on page two



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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## It can (and does) happen here

I still remember a Baptist preacher who molested me. I was twelve and thirteen years old. He stayed at our home while leading our church's revival. My parents, like everyone in the church, thought he was just great. I never told anyone what he did until I was grown and then only my wife. I'm sure he molested many other youth during his career.

A program that aired recently on Mississippi Public Radio quoted a Colorado law enforcement study which found the average pedophile arrested in Colorado molested around 180 different victims during their lifetime. I would assume the same holds true for Mississippi pedophiles.

A year or so ago I learned that this man is retired and living in Mississippi. I suffered no lasting emotional damage from his actions and forgave him long ago. I know I should have reported him to authorities at the time, or as soon as I became old enough to fully understand what he was doing, but I didn't. I see no purpose in naming him at this point. He is probably too old to hurt anyone now and whatever damage he did, has been done.

Certainly our churches today need to be more vigilant than were the churches of my youth.

We tend to read about such violations in faraway places and comfort ourselves with the thought that it couldn't happen here. Not in the Bible Belt. Not in Mississippi. Not in a Mississippi Baptist church. Think again. All of us would like to believe child molestation happens at a minimum among our own churches, and that's probably true — but one case is too many. It does happen in Mississippi, and it does happen in Mississippi Baptist churches that are unprepared.

The lessons of the unfolding Penn State scandal are many. One eminent lesson for us should be that our Baptist churches and institutions in Mississippi are at least as vulnerable — and unprepared — as was Penn State. It doesn't have to be that way.

There are concrete steps that churches can take to shrink the risk almost to zero.

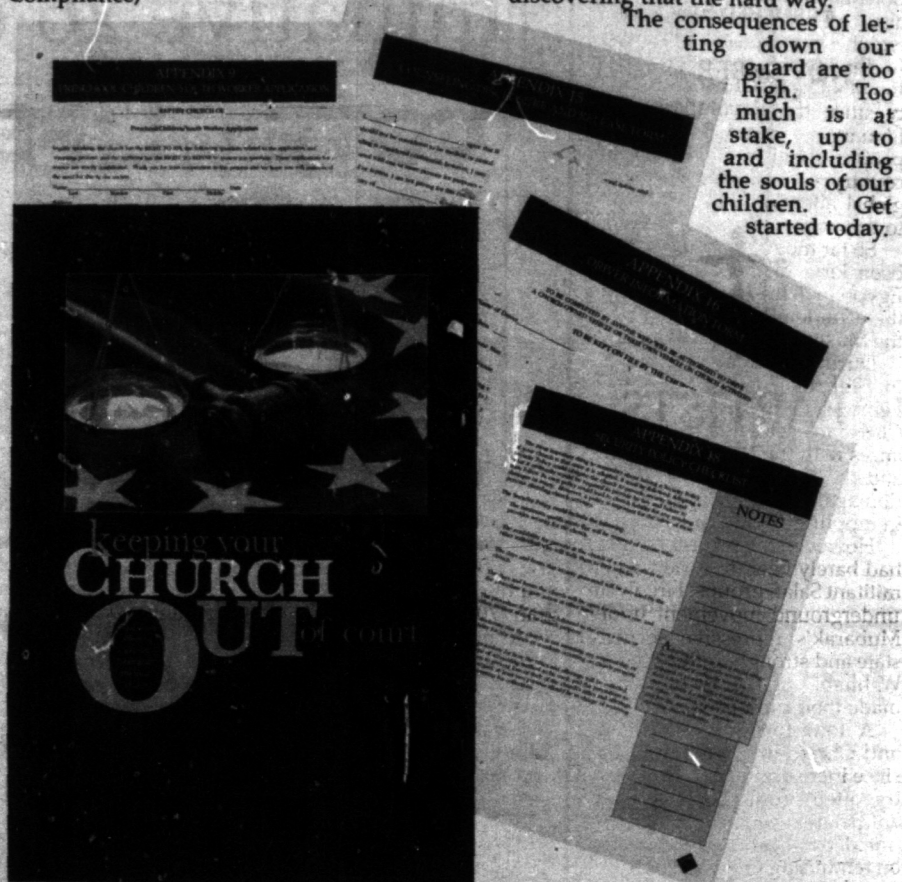
First, qualified legal counsel should always be on call to deal with any number of issues that could arise. Another good start would be to acquire the publication, *Keeping Your Church Out of Court*, a step-by-step manual available for a small charge from the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Topics covered in the manual include Church Organization and Operation; Church Liability; Decision Makers Liability and Protection; Employment Law; Taxes and Governmental Compliance;

and a number of model forms such as articles of incorporation, how to craft a church constitution, volunteer worker applications, and a child abuse prevention policy checklist.

No system is perfect and no plan is flawless, but every Mississippi Baptist church should take the actions necessary to shield our precious children from this ever-growing danger in our midst. For several decades now, sexualizing children has been one of the most serious problems in American culture, and it is slinking into our once-unimpeachable institutions and churches. Penn State is discovering that the hard way.

The consequences of letting down our guard are too high. Too much is at stake, up to and including the souls of our children. Get started today.



## Initiative 26

front group to pay for television and radio advertisements featuring Barbour harshly criticizing Initiative 26.

Two other constitutional initiatives that appeared on the ballot passed with large majorities. Initiative 27 requires the presentation of photo identification when voting, and Initiative 31 prohibits the taking of private land under eminent domain and then transferring it to another individual.

Incumbent Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, a Republican, was elected to a first term as governor, handily beating Hattiesburg Mayor Johnny Dupree, a Democrat. In early January, Bryant will be sworn in to replace Haley Barbour, who will be completing his

second term and was not eligible for reelection.

Bryant is a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Jackson. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and a masters degree from Mississippi College in Clinton.

Republican Tate Reeves easily overcame Reform Party candidate Tracella Hill to gain his first term as Lt. governor. He is a graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson, and previously served eight years as state treasurer. Reeves and his family attend Galloway Memorial Methodist Church in downtown Jackson.

Democrat Jim Hood won his third four-year term as attorney general, besting Republican Steve Simpson. A

member of First Church, Jackson, he holds a bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Republican Lynn Fitch will replace Reeves as state treasurer after she defeated Democrat Connie Moran. Fitch, a member of Madison United Methodist Church in Madison, holds both a bachelor's degree and a law degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

Republican Stacey Pickering beat Reform Party candidate Ashley Norwood to retain the position of state auditor for a second term. Pickering earned a bachelor of arts degree from Samford University in Birmingham, and a master's

degree from New Orleans Seminary. He is a member of First Church, Laurel.

It was announced on Nov. 14 that Republican Phillip Gunn, a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will be nominated by the Republican majority caucus in the Mississippi House of Representatives to serve as Speaker. If elected by House members Gunn, who has been a member of the House for eight years, will be the first Republican Speaker since the Reconstruction era following the Civil War.

Also for the first time since Reconstruction, Republicans in January will control the governorship, Lt. governorship, and both houses of the Mississippi Legislature.

## First person: Arab Spring violent for Christians

By Kurt J. Werthmuller  
Hudson Institute

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The overwhelming majority of the Arab world is Muslim, and so it would seem that the two words on everyone's lips in that region since January — revolution and democracy — should hinge on the participatory, popular will of that population.

However, a crucial test of the potential gains of the Arab Spring also will rest in the status of the region's non-Muslim minorities. In this sense, the standing of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, since the Revolution of 25 January — some 8-10 million people, roughly 10-12% of the country — warrants the recent global attention that has turned to this community.

So far the Arab Spring has not been kind to the Copts, native Egyptian Christians who lived there under Roman rule before the Muslim conquest of 640 A.D.

During the peak of euphoria in Tahrir Square in early February, many Egyptian Christians set aside their grievances with the Muslim majority, and the latter their discrimination against the former, to unite in toppling Hosni Mubarak.

However, the protest banners had barely been re-furled when militant Salafi groups, largely an underground movement under Mubarak's repressive security state and strongly influenced by Wahhabi fundamentalism, made their presence felt.

A long-forming pattern of anti-Christian violence has since increased across the country, often prompted by intolerant Salafi preachers and perpetrated by local Muslims intent on reminding Copts of their second-class status. For example:

- On March 4, a mob of Muslims in the village of Sol rioted against Copts and their property, angered by controversy over a rumored romance between a local Christian man and Muslim



**TERROR INCREASING** — In this scene from Egypt capturing an Oct. 9 clash in which 27 people were killed, a government military vehicle scatters people who were protesting the burning of a Coptic church. (BP photo)

woman. The mob sent Christian residents running to their homes for safety before it burned the town's main church to the ground (reportedly after looters mistook Coptic-language liturgy for books of black magic). Two Copts were killed in the violence.

- On Sept. 30, a Salafi imam incited a group of several thousand Muslims in the village of al-Marina to march on a local church after Friday prayers. The Christians' offense: They had built a dome on their more than 70-year-old church after receiving all necessary approval from the Aswan governor. The mob attacked and burned the church with impunity. The governor, while claiming he had given no such permission, implicitly sanctioned the mob's actions.

- This last incident led to horrific violence on Oct. 9, when the Egyptian military brutally suppressed a demonstration of mostly Coptic protesters in the Maspero district of Cairo, killing 27. Unbelievably, the military has denied all responsibility for the violence, despite a plethora of video and eyewitness evi-

dence to the contrary, and it has even sought to punish some of the more vocal participants (Christian and Muslim) of the Maspero protest. In this case, the transitional government didn't just overlook an attack on Copts: It perpetrated the violence.

- On Oct. 16, a public school teacher reportedly incited a group of Muslim students in his class to beat to death Ayman Labib, a Coptic classmate, for wearing a cross. As of this writing, police have charged two students with the murder, but the teacher (who reportedly turned to the class after seeing Ayman's cross and asked, "What are we going to do with him?") and others who might have been involved in the incident have so far avoided any serious investigation into their incitement or complicity.

These are all tragic events, but why do they matter? Why focus on the status of a minority community, when the big picture of the Arab Spring is really about the collective will of Tunisians, Egyptians, Syrians, Yemenis, Libyans, and Bahrainis rising against their respective autocracies?

The reason is simple: No nation can claim to uphold, implement or even pursue democratic ideals when it subju-

gates and oppresses its minorities, as Americans finally began to understand during their own Civil Rights movement.

The pattern of violence and discrimination against the Arab world's largest religious minority (roughly the same population as New York City) by members of the country's religious majority, and by the ruling military that is supposedly shepherding the country toward civilian rule, hints at a terrible price that Egypt may pay for its revolution, regardless of its original noble intentions.

The Arab Spring, in Egypt and beyond, will thus be meaningless if it exchanges one form of oppression for another.

Concerns about the emergence of Islamist factions as the most organized and mobilized groups in the region's new democratic processes, such as Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and its small but vocal population of intolerant Salafis, are indeed valid. They are an expression of genuine, well-founded apprehension about the future of Arab societies governed by Islamists and the rigid, archaic interpretations of sharia law that most of them share.

Renowned Egyptian novelist Alaa al-Aswany, himself a Muslim, is among those voicing deep concern: "We can expect them [Islamists] to use the democratic system as merely a ladder to power, which they will climb up and then kick away so that no one else can use it." Non-Muslims will likely be the first and certainly not the last victims of such a future.

To this end, the United States and its allies should do everything in their power to assure that the Copts, along with other non-Muslim and Muslim minority communities, receive the benefits of the Arab Spring, rather than become its victims — as many fear has already begun to happen.

**Editor's note:** Hudson Institute's mission statement describes it as a nonpartisan policy research organization dedicated to innovative research and analysis that promotes global security, prosperity, and freedom.

## Looking back

10 years ago

Norma McCorvey, the real person behind the fictitious plaintiff Jane Roe in the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, strives to get the ruling overturned. McCorvey accepted Christ through the ministry of Operation Outcry.

20 years ago

Trustees of Criswell College, Dallas, meet and reinstate Paige Patterson as president of the 355-student Bible college, after 25 of the 30 school regents resigned Nov. 1 and 80% of the student body threatened to leave over the controversial departure of Patterson.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program receipts for the end of the convention year of 1960-61 ends Oct. 31 total \$2,371,658.43, the largest amount ever given in one year.



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 45



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
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WREU, HUYUCIUKD EU;  
RWX MDLGLUIUH  
GDRAA HUYUCIU EU,  
HUYUCIUKD WLK EU,  
SJK DCE KDRK GUWK  
EU.  
ERHP WCWU: KDCHKB-  
GUIUW

Clue: W = N

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Eleven: Four

## CHOOSE TO BE THANKFUL

I am convinced that with Thanksgiving Day just around the corner you can choose whether or not you want to be thankful. In fact, you can decide every day whether or not you want to be thankful or you can choose to be unthankful. In our modern day, media driven world, most of us have come to understand that anything can be spun one way or another — good or bad, thankful or unthankful. Possibly you have run across those biblical stories that have been given a modern day spin. For example, the Crossing of the Red Sea in modern media terms might be splashed on the headlines as, "Wetlands Trampled in Labor Strike," or "Pursuing Justice: Environmentalist Killed." Take the Bible story of David versus Goliath and today it may be shaped like, "Hate Crime Kills Beloved Champion." Telling the story of the Feeding of the 5,000 in today's headlines might read something like, "Preacher Steals Child's Lunch."

I am suggesting that you and I can put whatever spin we want on our giving of thanks or being unthankful. Well, just try it! Make you a list. The grateful person might say, "I am so thankful for my family. I am blessed to have a job. I am grateful for friends who help and encourage me." It does not take much thought or effort for the exact same person to reshape all of those thoughts. My family is far from perfect, my children are not gifted or exceptional in music or in intellect, and my job is sort of a

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Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

routine, monotonous, and dead end experience. Probably at that point the ungrateful person might even continue the list with, "Although I am not sick and in the hospital, I do not feel good a lot of the time. It seems like every day I have new aches and pains. The bills are mounting up and cold, dreary weather is on the way."

You and I are in a position to decide whether or not we are going to be grateful, gracious, and thankful people, or we can join the host of complaining, grumbling, and sometimes whining folks that see nothing good around them and find every reason to be ungrateful. Years ago the great old preacher and writer, Matthew Henry, was mugged

one day. The robber stole his wallet and disappeared with all that Henry had. Sometime later the preacher was reflecting upon his loss. He said, "God, I thank thee." Then he went on to express his gratitude to God for a number of things. He said, "I am thankful that I have never been robbed before. I am thankful that though they took my wallet, they did not take my life. I am thankful that though they took my wallet, they did not get very much money. I am thankful that it was I who was robbed and not I who robbed."

Is that not an amazing thought process that every one of us could apply to various areas of our lives — and

especially as Thanksgiving Day comes? As we begin to look to God who has provided for us in the good times and the bad, the God who has given us so many healthy days and has not forsaken us in those days that are difficult and dismal, let us give thanks. Maybe it was that kind of thinking that the Apostle Paul had in mind when he said in I Thessalonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

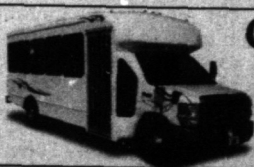
There is always a way to see that God may be at work in your life even when the circumstances seem to be working against you. As this Thanksgiving Day approaches, let me give you a kind of spiritual, personal assignment. Take a panoramic view of your life. In one scene after another, reveal those things for which you can thank God and see His hand at work. Choose to be thankful.

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

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FULL-TIME YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER Gaston Baptist Church in Booneville, MS is seeking someone to give leadership in growing an established youth ministry, and provide direction in building a ministry to children. Please send resumes to Darryl Hatfield, Gaston Baptist Church, 1908 Gaston Road, Booneville, MS or [gastonbaptistchu@bellsouth.net](mailto:gastonbaptistchu@bellsouth.net)

DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON COUNTY MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please mail resumes to the church at: PO Box 846, Flora, MS 39071. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

OAK HILL IN MERIDIAN IS LOOKING FOR A PART TIME SECRETARY beginning January 1st. Interested persons can call 601-482-5583 or email a resume to [mike.ohbc@comcast.net](mailto:mike.ohbc@comcast.net)

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YAZOO COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS NOW RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. This is a bi-vocational position. Please mail resumes to 4794 Mechanicsburg Road, Benton, MS 39040, attention: Jimmy Wayne Pettis.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 17, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## The Suit Project Merry Christmas

to the pastors in the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey

### What is The Suit Project?

For over 47 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas, many of whom have no suit nor the extra money to purchase one. The Suit Project lets these pastors know we care about them and support their work.

### How do I get involved?

Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each suit costs \$135. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups, RAs, GAs, or WMU groups.

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BAPTISTS

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Deacon Ministry Emphasis may be conducted at any time during the year, however, January 8-14, 2012, is designated by the MBCB as the week to emphasize Deacon Ministry Emphasis.

This ministry is a plan with specific actions that highlight deacon ministries and involve deacon training and service.

For more information, contact Keith Gordon at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, or 601-292-3307.

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- Remembering the Life of Jesus (for any stage of dementia)  
Tom Washburn, Minister of Senior Adults, FBC, Jackson
- Developing a Model for Homebound  
Tom Parker, Pastor at New Hope BC, Foxworth
- Single-Senior Ministry, Cindy Still, Bay Minette, Ala.
- Trends in Senior Ministry, Glenn Shows

Cost: \$10 includes lunch and handouts

Register for the Leadership Lab by February 1

Mail payment to: MBCB, Attn: Glenn Shows, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205 OR Pay \$5 at the door, lunch not included.

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## 2012 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST Weekday Education Clinics

for teachers and workers of:  
Christian Mother's Day Out; Kindergarten; Day Care  
4 hours of Health Department Approved Training

**Saturday, February 11**  
8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
Highland Baptist Church, Meridian

**Saturday, March 10**  
8 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Madison

Registration with fees paid in advance required - Cost: \$15 per conferee  
Checks for the registration fees should be payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Center directors, pastors, & children's ministers, accompanying their teachers, are FREE.

Contact: Don Hicks  
[dhicks@mbcb.org](mailto:dhicks@mbcb.org)

Discipleship and Family Ministry  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

Fall bonus location: October 13, 2012, in Olive Branch



# "Impacting the World Around Me"

Isaiah 43:18&19

## 8th Annual Senior Adult Evangelism Rally

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012  
BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH

8:00 A.M. REGISTRATION/REFRESHMENTS  
8:15 **EARLY BIRD:**  
"FUN TIME SHARING THE GOOD NEWS"  
KANDI FARRIS, GULFPORT  
(AUTHOR OF: NEVER THE LESS—THAT'LL PREACH!)

8:45 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

9:00 **BREAK-OUTS:**  
• "IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS"  
SHERRI AND BRUCE BURK, MISSIONARIES TO NEPAL, INDIA

• "GRANDPARENTING: BIBLE STORYTELLING"  
PAULA SMITH, WMJ, MBCB

• "FUN TIME SHARING THE GOOD NEWS" (REPEAT)  
KANDI FARRIS, GULFPORT

10:00 BREAK (REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY: MS BAPTIST FOUNDATION)

10:45 **WORSHIP CELEBRATION RALLY**

**MUSIC:** LINCOLN CORALE, BROOKHAVEN  
**PREACHER:** BILLY HATLEY, BIRMINGHAM, Ala.  
SENIOR ADULT COORDINATOR FOR SCOTT DAWSON EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

11:45 **ADJOURN**

For more information contact: gshows@mbcb.org or 800.748.1651, ext. 284

## 2012 OPPORTUNITIES LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Pastor/Leadership Development Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Go to [www.mbcb.org](http://www.mbcb.org) > Church Growth/Pastor Leadership Development Department to find the listing of our 2012 Opportunities brochure, or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, to request a copy.

"... whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant."  
Mark 10:43

## TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TRAINING

February 6-8, 2012

Thirty-Eighth Avenue Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Cost: \$599

Early Bird Special (By December 31, 2011): \$75

Cost includes: materials, conference fees, Monday supper, Tuesday lunch, Wednesday lunch and snack.

Training begins at 1:30 p.m. on February 6 and ends at 3 p.m. on February 8.

Contact: Bruce Cappleman at [bcappleman@mbcb.org](mailto:bcappleman@mbcb.org) or Carol Taylor at [chtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:chtaylor@mbcb.org) or call: (601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651 to register.

Church-Minister Relations • Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## 2012 STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

JANUARY 29-30

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH • BRANDON, MISS.

*A Life, A Cross, A Tomb, A Living Lord!*



Jim Futral Junior Hill Kevin Hamm Bill Stafford Sammy Gilbreath Mickey Dalrymple Marc Ivey

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

## YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

TEAM IMPACT



DECEMBER 29-30, 2011

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE • CLINTON, MISS.

REGISTRATION BEGINS  
Thurs., Dec. 29, 1:30 p.m.

CHALLENGE CONCLUDES  
Fri., Dec. 30, 12:30 p.m.

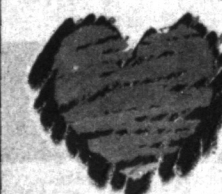
## CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY Retreat

March 22-24, 2012

GARAYWA

Camp and Conference Center  
Clinton

For more information contact Communication Services at 1-800-748-1651 (Miss. only), 601-292-3378 (locally), 601-714-7412 (fax), [irichardson@mbcb.org](mailto:irichardson@mbcb.org) or [jchen@mbcb.org](mailto:jchen@mbcb.org).



Ministry from the Heart

2012

MISSIONARY MOMENTS PRAYER GUIDE



COMING SOON!



Pray this day for...

Nov. 18 — Dec. 8, 2011

*"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name."*

*Psalms 100:4*

Pray for: **Earl\* and Ramona Hewitt**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through medical missions, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Raymond\* and Cynthia Hodgins**, IMB missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the United States through sports evangelism, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffery\* and Lissa\* Holman**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community, church and home outreach and encounter evangelism.

Pray for: **Janet Holloway\***, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in Russia through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel and Claudia\* Hood**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Kenya through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Don\* and Valery Hulsey**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Brian\* and Felicia\* Henderson**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through church and home outreach and evangelism, and serving through regional office support.

Pray for: **Floyd\* and Sharon\* Johnston**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Brazil through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard and Susan\* Jones**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in Canada through student evangelism.

Pray for: **John\* and Melinda\* Kyzar**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Czech Republic through personalization, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Henry\* and Linda Lee**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy\* and Rebecca\* Lightsey**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Asbury and Jeannie\* Martin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Argentina through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert\* and Janice Mooney**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Latvia through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen\* and Svetlana\* Parish**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the United States through strategy coordination, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin\* and Brenda Peacock**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Canada through theological education, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John and Sarah\* Perkins**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through church and home outreach, evangelism and providing mission support.

Pray for: **Michael and Sarah\* Prewitt**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John\* and Amy Puri**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Bulgaria through volunteer coordination, and community and home evangelism.

\*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

## TRANSITIONS

*Discovering the Generosity Factor*

The Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is making a tool available for churches to use for a 3-4 week Stewardship Emphasis.

Resources include a CD/DVD with Sunday School lessons and sermons; bulletin inserts for up to three Sundays; giving envelopes; and a poster.

Churches interested in ordering a Transitions packet can contact the Stewardship Department at 1.800.748.1651 [toll-free], 601.292.3347, or lleavell@mbcb.org. P.O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205

1-3-96

**MISS KATELYN R. BROWN**  
Parents: Donald & Donna  
European Peoples

1-4-11

**MISS RYLEIGH ROBERTS**  
Parents: Steve & Nickolee  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

1-5-93

**MISS MELEAH D. PEACOCK**  
Parents: Kevin & Brenda  
European Peoples

1-5-91

**MISS CASSANDRA ROBERTSON**  
Parents: Steve & Ruth  
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

1-7-08

**MISS AIVIA**  
Parents: M & G  
Restricted

1-8-92

**MR. STEVEN D. ALEXANDER**  
Parents: Mark & Karen  
American Peoples

1-14-08

**MR. MAX**  
Parents: J & S  
Restricted

1-15-05

**MR. ISAAC BEAMAN**  
Parents: Brad & Lenora  
Last Frontier

1-16-95

**MR. AUSTIN S.**  
Parents: Jerry & Kelly  
Last Frontier

1-21-97

**MR. CALEB E. HOLYFIELD**  
Parents: Michael & Patricia  
European Peoples

1-27-00

**MISS AIMEE YEAGER**  
Parents: Tommy & Jennifer  
Last Frontier

**Encourage an MK with a card!**

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Cards do not need postage stamps.



**Christian Action**  
COMMISSION

**PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES**  
*for Christian Living*

WWW.CHRIStIANAction.COM • VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 14

## 'What now?'

By **Jimmy Porter**  
*Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission*

Wednesday morning after the defeat of Initiative 26 the question "Why did we fail?" stared me in the face and was the subject of every conversation that morning. The conversations that followed were a series of speculations with not much substance. There were answers to give but not many factual reasons. After a few days of reflection, I conclude that even though the vote was 42% for and 58% against, we at least raised the issue of life and the responsibility to respect and honor it.

John Maxwell in his book *Failing Forward* quotes psychologist Simon Caruthers who says, "Life is a series of outcomes. Sometimes the outcome is what you want. Great. Figure out what you did right. Sometimes the outcome is what you don't want.

Great. Figure out what you did so you don't do it again." Therefore, the more appropriate question might be "What did we learn?" instead of "Why did we fail?"

One thing we learned is that a definition of when life begins is very controversial and far-reaching. In fact it was so far reaching that "White House officials praised the defeat of Initiative 26. President Barack Obama's spokesman said in a statement that the vote was a victory for women and families" (WAPT.com). It captured the attention of the news media not only in America but in other places as well. To say the whole world was watching is not that big of an exaggeration.



Porter

Another interesting observation is that when facts are not on your side, just create confusion. The leadership team of Planned Parenthood along with the comments of Governor Haley Barbour created a cloud of suspicion that could not be swept away before the election. The assumption of our Governor that this could have been passed if taken through the legislature is laughable at best. Perhaps our critics are right in that we did not do a good enough job of getting the facts to the people of Mississippi in time and in an understandable way.

You would think that all religions would stand together on the dignity and worth of a life

and when it begins. Not so! The Episcopal and Methodist Bishops for Mississippi publicly opposed the measure along with the Catholic Bishop here in Jackson. In their "critical critiques" of Initiative 26 the life and death of the unborn seemed to be inconsequential to women's rights to decide the fate of their unborn. Most all of our Baptist pastors supported this measure and were much like John the Baptist, crying out in the wilderness and not hiding in the bushes.

Some things that happened were not new lessons but just a refresher course in human behavior. Emotions rarely ever need facts or listen to facts. All of us have been taught when we are stressed or emotionally "wrung out" to not make major decisions. Most of us get so emotionally caught up in things that our reasoning abilities are stymied.

Research is still being done on the failure of Initiative 26 and

no doubt other reasons will emerge. But one thing is crystal clear — forty two percent of you who voted believes in the sacredness of human life no matter how small. Your vote was not wasted in this life, and I strongly feel it was not wasted in heaven above. You are to be thanked for your tireless efforts.

What now? Will there be another initiative effort in the years ahead? Will the personhood proposal be reworked and surface in the legislature next year? These and other questions are being discussed at the present time and have yet to be answered. Be assured that the fight for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all humans, even the unborn, will continue!

Porter can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or at [jporter@christianaction.com](mailto:jporter@christianaction.com).

## REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **First Church, Wiggins:** 115th anniversary, Nov. 20; 9:45 a.m. celebration for children ages 2 - 5th grade; celebration service, 10 a.m., featuring former and current ministerial staff, followed by fellowship meal.
2. **Fairview Church, Indianola:** 138th homecoming, Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship.

3. **First Church, Crystal Springs:** 150th anniversary, Nov. 19 - 20; Sat., fall festival, 5 p.m. with Taylor Dubose in concert, 7 p.m.; Sun., fellowship, 9 a.m.; prayer walk, 10 a.m.; service, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and dedication of new family life center.

## OBITUARY

North Greenwood Baptist Church presents

## Charles Billingsley in Christmas Concert

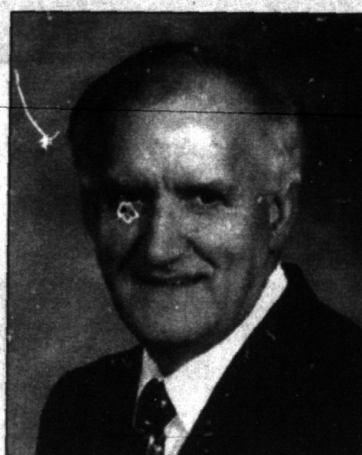
**Thursday**  
**December 15, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$10.00**  
**General Admission**

**615 Grand Boulevard, Greenwood, MS**  
**662-453-2801**



1. **John Leland Merck**, age 77, of Lucedale passed away on November 6. Merck was born on August 30, 1934, in Liberty, South Carolina. He was the former pastor of Helena Church of Moss Point. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Ellen Merck; son, Michael Len Merck; and great grandson, Bryan Walley. Merck is survived by his children, Jim and Nancy Merck, Lucedale; Tim and Dee Merck, Satsuma, Ala.; and Krystal Merck Yates, Lucedale. Grandchildren, Lee Merck, Grove Hill, Ala.; Rebekah Merck, Lucedale; Matthew Merck, Hattiesburg; Hollie Faulkner,



1. Merck

Stephanie Vaughn, Satsuma, Ala.; Tiffani Yates, Lucedale, and Nicole Yates, Lucedale. Great grandchildren, Brandon Walley, Brad Walley, Maggie Merck, Carolyn Merck, Colleen Merck, Ruth Abigail Merck, Lane Vaughn, Garrett Faulkner, Reese Merck, and Hayes Merck. Visitation was held on November 12, at the Rocky Creek Church from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. Funeral Services were at 12 Noon with Lee Merck and Don Boone officiating. Interment followed in the Rocky Creek Cemetery. George County Funeral Home in Lucedale, was in charge of arrangements.

**HOUSE TOPS**



1. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing featuring The Teletals Nov. 19, 6 p.m.
2. Doty Springs Church, Attala Association, held a baby dedication service Oct. 30 for Charleigh Marie Keith, daughter of Barry and Jennifer Keith. Shown are pastor Larry Odom and the Keiths.
3. The GAs of McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, sewed and stuffed fleece dolls to send to missionaries in Guatemala for distribution to needy children. Shown are the GAs, their leaders, and some of the adults who helped them with the project.
4. Calvary Church, Pascagoula, ordained Lewis Savage, Winston Duncan, and Hayward Saucier as deacons Oct. 31. Shown are Pastor Tapper, Savage, Duncan, and Saucier.
5. Concord Church, Rankin Association, hosted a presentation on Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief led by Don Gann, Men's Ministry consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Nov. 8. Five area churches - Concord, Crossroads, Antioch, Pelahatchie, and Rock Bluff - were represented by 27 attendees. Shown are Gann, Bill Thompson, pastor J.R. Lee, and Eugene Townsend.
6. Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, ordained Reggie D. Howell, pastor of Belen Church, to the ministry Nov. 6. Shown are pastor Don Dunavant, Howell, Patti Howell, and Lee Kirk.
7. The Women on Mission of Sallis Church, Sallis, made reversible dresses to send to a local group on a mission trip to Honduras. Shown are some of the women with some of the finished dresses.



2. Doty Springs Church



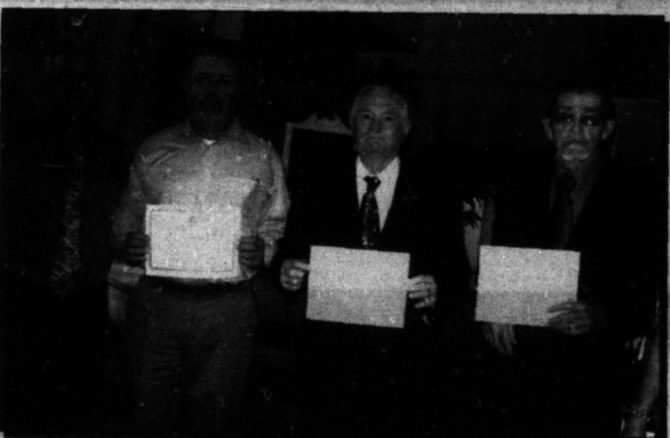
5. Concord Church, Rankin Association



3. McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl



6. Howell ordination



4. Calvary Church, Pascagoula



7. Sallis Church, Sallis

8. Rolling Hills Church, Carriere, will present the Christmas musical Heaven on Earth Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m., followed by refreshments.
9. The Attala Association held its 151st annual session Oct. 17 at Second Church, Kosciusko. Thirty-one

churches with 156 delegates were represented. A dozen pastors and laypeople, following the theme of Covering Attala County in Prayer, presented objects of prayer and conducted prayers for each of the items.

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. The Mississippi College School of Nursing sponsored a Health Fair at the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. Thirty-three MC seniors administered flu shots, offered tips on sleep disorders and better nutrition, provided vision tests and handled other screenings. The Mississippi College School of Nursing will sponsor

another health fair in April 2012 at the Baptist Healthplex on the Clinton campus.

2. Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible, a traveling exhibition opening at the Sarah Gillespie Museum on William Carey University's Hattiesburg campus on January 19, 2012, celebrates the

400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Bible in 1611 and examines its complex history. The traveling exhibit consists of high-quality reproductions of rare and historic books, manuscripts, and works of art from the Folger and Bodleian collections, combined with interpretive text and related images. The library is sponsoring free pro-

grams and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. For more information, visit <http://library.wmcarey.edu>, or contact Sherry Laughlin at (601) 318-6170 or [slaughlin@wmcarey.edu](mailto:slaughlin@wmcarey.edu). Manifold Greatness: The Creation and Afterlife of the King James Bible will be on display on the Carey campus until February 16.

## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### Respond to Difficult Situations

Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 106:32-33

By Huey Dedmon

I am sure there is no one reading this lesson that has not been through difficult times in their life. If you haven't, just wait, your time will come. Moses and the children of Israel were experiencing one of their most difficult times in our passage today. Like us, their difficulties were brought on by their refusal to trust God. They had been wondering in the wilderness for almost 40 years. God had been taking care of them, providing all they needed to survive. They found themselves in the area of Kadesh, without water. They rose up in anger against Moses and Aaron. In response, Moses and Aaron asked God what to do. God gave Moses instructions on what to do, and Moses, in anger toward the people,

struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock as God had told him. We see the children of Israel failing to trust God, and Moses letting his anger toward God's people cause him to disobey God. Our lesson today will help us learn how to respond to difficult situations in a way that will honor God.

### Don't Idolize the Past

Numbers 20:1-5

It seems that any time people face difficult times they start thinking about how wonderful things used to be. The children of Israel complained to Moses about the lack of water and then began to tell him how much better things were when they were in Egypt. The interesting thing to note here is that they have been wandering around in the



Dedmon

wilderness for almost 40 years waiting for those, who forty years ago disobeyed God, to die. The ones complaining should have learned from their parents' mistakes, but they are the ones making the same mistake. It may be that instead of hearing stories of how faithful God had been to them, all they have heard for forty years is how good things were in the past. This sounds eerily familiar to our churches today. Much of what our children hear at home is how we don't like the preacher, or some other staff member, or how terrible the music is, or how we don't like another church member. We remember days gone by and wish it could be like those days again. The inherent danger here is that we, like the children of Israel, have selective memories. We tend to forget the bad and only remember the good. We must learn to trust God in the present. We should learn

from the past but idolizing it and dwelling on it cripples us.

### Don't Lose Your Temper

Numbers 20:6-11; Psalm 106:32-33

When confronted with the complaint and need of the people, Moses went to God for instructions. After receiving his instructions he was so frustrated and tired of dealing with the people that he responded in anger. Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it as God had instructed. Psalm 106 is a detailed account of the Israelites' history of unfaithfulness to God. The Psalm notes that Moses' action included bitterness and rash words toward God's people. Moses lost his temper and it cost him the Promised Land. Our frustrations are no excuse for disobeying God. We must all be aware of the things that frustrate us and not allow them to hinder our work for God. We also see that God still responded to the need of the people despite Moses' disobedience. Water flowed from the rock because God's graciousness is not hindered by our actions.

### Don't Fail to Trust the Lord

Numbers 20:12-13

We must remember that with every action or decision come the consequences of that action or decision. God told Moses that, because of his disobedience, he would not be the one to lead the children of Israel into the long awaited promise land. At this point many would say that, after all he had done, Moses' life was a failure. It is true that Moses had to face the consequences of his actions but, because of the faithfulness of God, his life was not a failure. This was not the mark of Moses' life. In Deuteronomy 34, after his death, he is identified as the servant of the Lord and an unparalleled prophet.

We will all face difficult situations in our life. How we respond in those situations can bring honor to God and be an example of our trust in Him.

Dedmon is associate pastor for education and outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Do You Strive for Peace with Others?

Romans 14:13-23

By Marion D. Duncan

Ultimately everyone will bow before God and give an account for everything they have done and confess that Jesus is Lord. Therefore, a man who is strong in his faith has a responsibility not to do anything that would cause a brother to stumble in his faith. The Lord said that it would be better for someone who has been a stumbling block to another to have a millstone tied around his neck and be drowned in the sea. "Paul makes it a Christian duty to think of everything, not as it affects ourselves only, but also as it affects others." (The Letter to the Romans, William Barclay)

Paul continued his explanation by telling the stronger brother to compromise his liberty in Christ in order to strengthen the faith of another. There are things

that a strong believer might not consider wrong to do; but to one who has not realized his religious liberty yet, the same thing might be sin. For example, one might not consider it wrong to go to a movie on Sunday afternoon, but another might think that to do anything aside from worshipping God on Sunday would not be appropriate behavior for a Christian.

Paul says he is fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But, some hearers have come from religious backgrounds with rules governing the use of certain foods; therefore, if one of them regards something as unclean, then to that person it is unclean. If your eating certain food causes your brother distress, you are no longer



Duncan

acting in love toward him. In those extra things that are not essential, stronger believers have no right to give offence to the more scrupulous brother. Life actions must be guided by love because Christianity consists in loving God and our neighbor as ourselves. "Every believer is his brother's keeper; and must refrain from anything that would lead him astray. To have a free conscience in the things we allow is one thing; to exercise that freedom to the peril of another man's soul is something else." (Exploring Romans, John Phillips)

In verse 16, Paul warned about "allowing that good gift of freedom which you possess to become a thing which gets you into disrepute." (Barclay) Freedom must never be used as an excuse for rough-riding over the genuine feelings of others. Even outsiders speak against Christian faith as they hear about squabbles over what to eat and what to drink or other nonessential elements of the faith. (The Broadman Bible Commentary, v. 10) "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking (or other trivial matters), but of righteousness, peace, and joy (gifts) in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and will be accepted by other people." (Romans 14:17-18 NIV)

Paul admonishes his listeners to make every effort to do what leads to peace and builds up other believers rather than doing something that they believe is acceptable but would cause problems with or hinder the growth of other believers. Believers should act toward others in love and not destroy the work of God for

the sake of food (or any nonessential elements).

He continued by affirming that all food is acceptable for consumption; but, it is wrong to eat food or drink anything that causes someone else to sin. A man who is strong in faith has grasped the principle that food and drink make no difference. However, he also knows that it is better not to eat meat or any food or drink wine or other beverages or do anything that will cause his brother or sister to sin. On the other hand, if a man truly believes a thing is wrong, and he does it anyway, for him it is sin because he has disobeyed his conscience.

In summary, everything a Christian does should be done out of love for Christ, and because Christ lives and works in him to speak to those who do not have faith to believe. In practice and witness believers should show: "in essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, love." (Barclay)

Duncan is a member and pastor's wife from First Church, Macon.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).



# Pornography problem challenges churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Most pastors believe pornography has adversely impacted the lives of their church members, but almost half cannot estimate what percentage of their congregation views porn. That is the finding of a newly released survey by LifeWay Research of 1,000 American Protestant pastors.

When presented with the statement, "Pornography has adversely affected the lives of our church members," 69% of pastors surveyed agree. That includes 42% who strongly agree and 27% who somewhat agree. Nine percent somewhat disagree and eight percent strongly disagree. Fourteen percent do not know or preferred not to answer.

"Most pastors know pornography's poisonous effects," LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer said. "They've seen it destroy marriages, wreck lives and warp America's moral compass when it comes to sexuality."

When asked to estimate the percentage of men in their congregations who view pornography on a weekly basis, 43% are unable or unwilling to respond. Of those able and willing to estimate, a majority (62%) say less than 10%, 24% say 10-24%, 10% say 25-49% and four percent say 50% or more.

The results are similar when pastors are asked about the women in their churches. Forty-four percent are unable or unwilling to estimate the percentage of females in their congregations who view pornography on a weekly basis. Of those who are able and willing, 87% say less than 10%. Ten percent say 10-24%, and three percent say 25-49%. Zero percent say 50% or more.

Statistics from other studies, however, suggest that pastors may underestimate pornography's effect on their congregants.

According to data compiled by the Education Database Online, 43% of people who use the Internet visit pornographic websites. Some 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites, with pornographic downloads representing 35% of all Internet downloads. Of the 40 million regular visitors, 33% are women. A full 70% of men age 18-24 visit porn sites monthly.

"Though pastors know generally that pornography is harmful, many may not realize that it is coming into the homes of their members," Stetzer said. "Large numbers of church attendees are included in the nearly half of all Internet users who visit porn sites. We were surprised that so many

## Survey among Protestant Pastors Church vs. culture

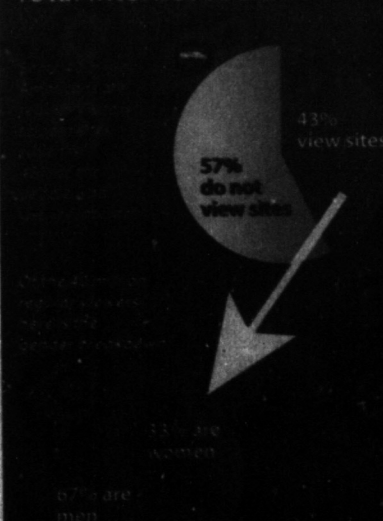
### Men in congregations viewing pornography on a weekly basis



### Women in congregations viewing pornography on a weekly basis



### Total internet users

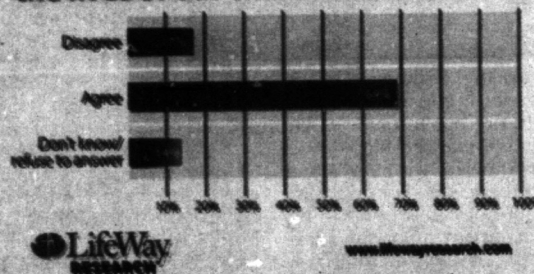


were unable or unwilling to estimate considering how pervasive pornography is inside the church.

"If a third think that less than 10% of the men are looking at porn and almost a half aren't sure, we may very well have a lack of awareness of porn's presence. Studies show that committed Christians engage pornography less, but the issue is still a big one that the church must face."

"The church has been given all that is needed to address sexuality from a biblical perspective," Stetzer recently wrote in a blog at EdStetzer.com where he shortened an article he wrote for the Assemblies of God Enrichment Journal.

### Among Protestant Pastors Pornography has adversely affected the lives of our church members



In that series, called "pornification," Stetzer called for more awareness and clear biblical teaching on the issue.

## U.S. government still working intervention for pastor

TEHRAN (BP) — The U.S. State Department is trying to help free an Iranian pastor who faces possible execution for his Christian faith, and an Iranian decision on the pastor's fate is expected by mid-December, the pastor's supporters say.

The case of pastor Yousef Nadarkhani has drawn worldwide attention. He originally was sentenced to death for apostasy, although Iranian officials in recent weeks have brought forth unrelated charges — apparently in an attempt to lessen international pressure. His supporters say the charges are false.

Nadarkhani's case has faded from the news since September, but the State Department has not forgotten, said Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). A team of ACLJ attorneys met with members of



Nadarkhani

the State Department Nov. 9, a meeting that was initiated by government officials.

"The State Department ... is

very much engaged on this, has not forgotten about pastor Yousef and will not forget about pastor Yousef," Sekulow told CBN News.

Nearly 200,000 people signed an ACLJ petition supporting Nadarkhani. Additionally, Suzan Johnson Cook, the State Department's ambassador at large for international religious freedom, mentioned Nadarkhani during a speech at the U.S. Institute for Peace.

"I want to echo President Obama's and Secretary Clinton's — and repeat my own — condemnation of his conviction and our calls on Iranian authorities to release Pastor Nadarkhani immediately," Cook said. "I urge all of you to do the same."

Meanwhile, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which follows cases involving religious freedom, says Iranian Supreme

Leader Ayatollah Khamenei is expected to issue his decision on the pastor by mid-December.

Nadarkhani, who is in his 30s, was arrested in 2009 and charged with apostasy, an offense punishable by hanging. A lower court found that while he had never been Muslim, he was guilty of apostasy because he came from a Muslim family. The Iranian Supreme Court upheld his death sentence.

In September, he was given four chances to recant his faith but refused to do so each time. "Repent means to return. What should I return to? To the blasphemy that I had before my faith in Christ?" he asked during one of the exchanges, according to the ACLJ.

"To the religion of your ancestors, Islam," the judge reportedly replied. "I cannot," Nadarkhani responded.

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. The annual Bobby Halford Holiday Baseball Camp for youth ages 7-17 will be conducted December 28-30 on the William Carey University campus in Hattiesburg. The sessions will concentrate primarily on pitching, catching and hitting, with emphasis on fundamentals and individualized instruction. Drills and team play are utilized to fit every skill level. Evaluation and recommendation of each player is part of the three-day session. The hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. December 28-29, and 9 a.m.-noon December 30. Cost is \$125, which includes instruction, camp T-shirt, and two noon meals. Instructors include Carey coaches and area scouts under the direction of Coach Halford. For more information, call the baseball office, (601) 318-6110, or the office of external relations, (601) 318-6192, or write Bobby Halford Baseball Camp, William Carey University, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401, or email [bhalford@wmcarey.edu](mailto:bhalford@wmcarey.edu).

2. Mississippi College professor Stephanie Busbea, shown, says it's truly rewarding to work with students who will become art teachers in future years. The exceptional classroom performance of the MC art education coordinator is getting noticed statewide. The Mississippi Art Education Association recently selected Busbea as its 2011 Higher Education Art Educator of the Year. Affiliated with the National Art Education Association, the 75-year-old Mississippi chapter provides enriching professional development programs for art educators in the Magnolia State and promotes the profession.



2. Busbea